

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Info

FROM: PARIS

Control: 1602
Rec'd: Sept 2 1961
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TO: Secretary of State
NO: 1200, SEPTEMBER 2, 4 PM
PRIORITY

EYES ONLY SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT

AT CLOSE OF MY TALK WITH DE GAULLE THIS MORNING (REPORTED SEPARATELY) HE REQUESTED ME TO TAKE A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY MOST SINCERE AND LEANED FORWARD ON HIS DESK TO SAY, "I UNDERSTAND FULL WELL, BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE, THE WEIGHT AND SCOPE OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S RESPONSIBILITIES. HE IS THE HEAD OF THE STATE WHICH IN THE WEST IS THE MOST POWERFUL. THEREFORE EVERYTHING DEPENDS MORE OR LESS ON HIM. THIS GIVES HIM A TREMENDOUS BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY. I AM AWARE OF THE WEIGHT OF THIS BURDEN AND IT IS WITH GREAT SYMPATHY AND FRIENDSHIP THAT I FOLLOW AND WITNESS HIS EFFORTS. IF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS TURNS FROM BAD TO WORSE WE WILL ENTER A CATASTROPHE. IF SUCH A CATASTROPHE OCCURS, FRANCE WILL ENTER IT TOGETHER WITH THE UNITED STATES, IN ANY CASE. I SAY THIS ON BEHALF OF FRANCE, AND I CAN VOUCH FOR FRANCE. IF THERE IS TO BE NO CATASTROPHE, IT WILL HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT FOR THE FREE WORLD TO HAVE SHOWN FIRMNESS."

(IT IS GENERAL DE GAULLE'S IMPRESSION THAT I WILL PERSONALLY GIVE THE FOREGOING TO THE PRESIDENT, SO I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE WELL FOR ME TO SEE THE PRESIDENT EVEN THOUGH VERY BRIEFLY).

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, SEC. 3(e), 5.D. 5(E) AND 11
State
BY mlm
NLK-77-631
MAIL DATE 8-31-77

SECRET//
[REDACTED]

GAVIN

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Cy to R.F. - 9/6 - Act 9/11